

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 1~~ drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said cover comprises a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 2, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder ~~having~~ having a constant diameter.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 1~~ drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said cover is six-inch welded stainless steel pipe.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 1~~ drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said first support includes a first flange having a diameter greater than said the diameter cover and a shoulder having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 5, wherein said second support includes a second flange having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

8. (Currently Amended) The housing drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said second support includes a second flange having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

9. (Currently Amended) The housing drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said first flange is made from stainless steel.

10. (Currently Amended) The housing drive assembly of claim 6, further comprising a first sealing element disposed between said shoulder and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

11. (Currently Amended) The housing drive assembly of claim 7, further comprising a second sealing element disposed between said flange and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

12. (Currently Amended) The housing drive assembly of claim 10, further comprising a second sealing element disposed between said flange and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

13. (Currently Amended) The housing drive assembly of claim 12, wherein said first and said second sealing elements are O-rings.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing according to claim 15~~ drive assembly according to
claim 31, wherein said first and said second sealing elements are O-rings.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 14~~ drive according to claim 31, wherein
said cover comprises a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 17, wherein said cover is
a hollow cylinder ~~having~~ having a constant diameter.

19. (Withdrawn) A mixing apparatus comprising:
a motor assembly;
a mixing vessel that contains material to be mixed;
a seal pedestal connected to said mixing vessel;
a cover supported between said motor assembly and said seal pedestal; and
a drive assembly connected between said motor and said seal pedestal and disposed
within said cover.

20. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a
rotatable shaft extending from said drive assembly and into said mixing vessel.

21. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a

sealing element that seals said cover to said drive assembly.

22. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus of claim 20, wherein said housing comprises a cover having a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

23. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus of claim 22, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder.

24. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus of claim 19, wherein said drive assembly is a speed reducer.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for covering at least a portion of a drive assembly comprising:

covering at least a portion of the drive assembly with a cover; and

supporting the cover with a first support and a second support.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of sealing the cover to the drive assembly.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for sealing at least a portion of a drive assembly comprising:

covering at least a portion of the drive assembly with a cover; and

sealing the cover to the drive assembly.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a cover that extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal;

a speed reducer disposed within said cover;

a first support that supports said cover on the motor assembly; and

a second support that supports said cover on the seal pedestal.

30. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said speed reducer is a concentric speed reducer.

31. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a cover that extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal;

a speed reducer disposed within said cover;

a first seal element that seals said cover to the motor assembly; and

a second seal element that seals said cover to the seal pedestal.

32. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said speed reducer is a concentric speed reducer.

33. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

means for covering the drive assembly, wherein said means for covering the drive assembly extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal;

means for reducing speed disposed in said means for covering;

first means for supporting the covering means on the drive assembly; and

second means for supporting the covering means on the seal pedestal.